



Long Beach Police Department

Crime Watch News

Crime Prevention Unit . 100 Long Beach Blvd . Long Beach, CA 90802

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Chief of Police

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Deputy Chief of Police
Support Bureau

Braden Phillips
Manager
Administration Bureau

Karen Owens
Administrator
Community Relations Division

Kevin Coy
Sergeant
Crime Prevention Unit
Community Relations Division

Lisa Massacani
PSA/Coordinator
Neighborhood Watch
Community Relations Division

COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION MEETING

RED LIGHT ENFORCEMENT 3 YEAR UPDATE

Wednesday
May 19, 2004
7:00 p.m.

Long Beach Water Department Headquarters
1800 East Wardlow Road

***This month's meeting will showcase a presentation by
Accident Investigation Detail Sergeant Hans Kohnlein
with a 3-year update on our Red Light Enforcement Program.
Please join us for an informative evening to find out how the program has
progressed. Is it working? Is it a solution to our City's budgetary
problems? Most importantly, has it decreased the amount of traffic
collisions at the targeted intersections?***

Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

- May 8, 2004, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Benefit Car Show and Police K-9 Demonstration
Hosted by the Long Beach K-9 Officers Association and the Sultans Car Club
100% of Proceeds go to support and purchase Police K-9 Dogs
POA Park, 7380 E. Carson Street, behind Lowe's at the Long Beach Town Center
For more information, contact Vince Bunting: (562) 432-0901
- May 11, 2004, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
4th Annual Long Beach Police and Fire Memorial Ceremony
Police and Fire Memorial - The foot of Chestnut Avenue south of Broadway
For further information, contact PSA John Houck: (562) 570-7160
- May 15, 2004, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
"Celebrating Families"- Annual Safety Fair
Millers Children's Hospital, 2801 Atlantic Avenue
For further information, contact Libby Hoy: (562) 933-8048
- May 25, 2004, Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. Reception, 12:00 p.m. Luncheon
36th Annual Long Beach Police Department Awards Luncheon
Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center Grand Ballroom
For further information, contact Community Relations: (562) 570-7215

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities.....	1
Mental Evaluation Team.....	2
Play Away From Traffic.....	2
Neighborhood Watch Recognition Program ...	2
New California Law	3
Annual Awards Luncheon.....	3
Neighborhood Watch Success Stories	4

M. E. T. Mental Evaluation Team

The Long Beach Police Department's Mental Evaluation Team (a.k.a. "MET Team") is a highly specialized detail that was developed to provide a compassionate and efficient response to mental health emergencies.

Founded in 1996 by Officer Clint Grimes, the formation of this team was a direct response to the large volume of calls the department regularly received involving the mentally ill in crisis. The MET Team responds mostly to individuals suffering from one of three main illnesses: depression, schizophrenia, or bipolar disorder. The police are usually called when the suffering individual refuses to take their medication or has not sought treatment for their mental illness. The MET Team serves the cities of Long Beach and Signal Hill and handles an average of 50 to 80 calls per week.

The M.E.T. Team consists of four units. Each unit consists of one specially trained Police Officer and one Clinician from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. The team's Clinicians are Psychologists, Psychology Technicians, Registered Nurses, and Licensed Clinical Social Workers. Of the four officers serving on the MET Team, two hold Master's degrees in Psychology related fields, and three of the four are also negotiators on the Special Weapons & Tactics Team (S.W.A.T.).

The MET Team is available 19 hours a day to relieve Patrol Officers of the often long and complex task of resolving situations involving the mentally ill. Patrol Officers are usually the first to receive the dispatch and to arrive on scene. After evaluating and stabilizing the situation, they summon the MET Team Unit for their expertise in recognizing and handling psychological disorders. The team responds in an unmarked police vehicle equipped with a computer that can access the County Hospital System. They arrive and immediately begin evaluating the individual, by talking to him/her and anyone who is with the individual. The MET Team Officer and Clinician partner strive to build a rapport with the individual, assuring him/her that they are there to help, utilizing non-threatening techniques to gain compliance and to diffuse the situation. Once the MET Team has the situation handled, the original responding unit is allowed to go back into service to handle additional calls for service.

The patient's name is run in the County Hospital System and their history is reviewed. The team then offers resources available to assist the individual, or may transport the patient to an appropriate medical facility for further evaluation and treatment.

The Mental Evaluation Team prevents violence in our community by reaching out to the mentally ill, providing them with resources and support, and helping them to get the help they need before they become a danger to themselves and others. The MET Team can be reached by calling our Communications Center (9-1-1 or 435-6711), if they are needed immediately, or by dialing their direct line at (562) 570-7194.



**PLAY AWAY
FROM TRAFFIC**

The time change may make it more dangerous for children when playing outside. According to the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, 46 percent of traffic-related child pedestrian deaths occur between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. This is the time that many children are playing at parks, playgrounds, or in their neighborhoods. Unfortunately, this is also the time when streets may be busy with motor vehicle traffic. The Automobile Club offers the following tips for safe outside play.

Be Smart

- Never play in the street or near traffic.
- Never ride bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, or scooters in the street where there is traffic.
- Never go into the street to chase a ball or any other toy.

Be Seen

- When playing outside, don't wear dark "winter" clothing. Dark clothing makes it harder for motorists to see children.
- Wear reflective foot wear and clothing; this makes children more visible after dusk to motorists.



Be Safe

- Always wear helmets and protective gear when riding bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, or scooters.
- When crossing the street to play, stop, and look all ways: left, right, left again, and over the shoulder to be sure there are no vehicles coming.

Be Aware

- Be aware of traffic when playing. Don't always think that a car or truck can see you, just because you see them.
- Never talk to strangers when playing outside.
- Run in the house and tell an adult if a stranger comes up to you and asks for assistance.

**LONG BEACH
POLICE DEPARTMENT
36TH ANNUAL AWARDS
LUNCHEON**



Emmett Miller
KTLA-Channel 5
Guest Co-Narrator



Sharon Tay
KTLA-Channel 5
Guest Co-Narrator

On Tuesday, May 25, 2004, the 36th Annual Police Awards Luncheon will be held at the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center. This luncheon publicly honors those brave police employees and citizens who have distinguished themselves by aiding their fellow men and women, often at great risk to their own personal safety.

Tickets are available in the Community Relations Division, 333 W. Broadway, Suite 100, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and may be purchased for \$30 each or \$300 for a table of 10. Make your check payable to the **City of Long Beach.**

For further information, call the Community Relations Division at (562) 570-7215.

There's only a few seats left, so please respond as soon as possible!



**NEW 2004
CALIFORNIA LAWS**

Video Devices AB 301

During 2003, the Legislature approved several new laws affecting the California Vehicle Code. AB 301 is one the Legislature affected on January 1, 2004.

AB 301 is an expansion of an existing law that prohibits a person from watching a television while driving. The new law prohibits watching or having visible, a video device (VCR, DVD, Laptop) or other video signal that is operating and located at any point forward of the back of the driver's seat. However, the bill does not pertain to a mobile digital terminal that is installed as part of an authorized emergency vehicle or to any motor vehicle providing emergency road service or assistance.



**The new law prohibits a person from
WATCHING a television while DRIVING !**

For further information about this new law or other 2004 California laws, please visit the following websites:

www.mrtraffic.com/2004.htm

www.dmv.ca.gov

www.chp.ca.gov

**Neighborhood
Watch
Appreciation
BBQ**

**The Neighborhood Watch
Appreciation BBQ is back to
the month of
June!**

*Our Block Captains have been
working hard this year and we all
agree that they should be
recognized for their tremendous
effort.*

*This year's barbecue will be held
at 6:00 p.m., on Wednesday,
June 16, at the POA Park,
located at the entrance to the
Police Academy at
7290 E. Carson Street
(behind Lowe's Hardware
at the Long Beach Town
Center).*

*Please mark your calendars for an
evening of food and fun!*

**Please R.S.V.P.
Community Relations at
(562) 570-7215**

**Thank you all for your
hard work and dedication.**

**Together, we're making our
neighborhoods safer !**

**Neighborhood Watch
Appreciation BBQ**





NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SUCCESS STORIES

Please share your own Neighborhood Watch Success Story by sending an article to the Community Relations Division, or e-mail it to Lisa_Massacani@longbeach.gov.

Volunteer Marla Noel aids the success of Neighborhood Watch!

The Long Beach Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Program is experiencing its busiest year to date, despite a shrinking staff and an on-going hiring freeze. But since November of 2003, Volunteer Marla Noel has generously donated her time to assist the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator and her efforts have helped keep the program running smoothly.

By day, Marla is the Executive Vice President of Fair Haven Memorial Park and Mortuary, in Santa Ana. She then volunteers one night a week and each Saturday for several hours in the Community Relations Division, helping PSA Lisa Massacani with a myriad of Neighborhood Watch Program tasks. In addition, Marla is deeply involved in the Rotary Club and also dedicates her time to improving the lives of at-risk youth. Marla recently volunteered at a weekend retreat supporting our youth, an obvious worthwhile cause. Her involvement in the community touches many.

Marla assists in the preparation of five or more Neighborhood Watch meetings per week by gathering the crime statistics for each neighborhood, making copies of handouts, and assembling information packets. She also attends some of the meetings. She helps organize our files, updates the database, creates forms and fliers, and helps with many, many other tasks. She is currently assisting in the hectic preparations for the Annual Awards Luncheon, and always rises to the occasion anytime she notices that someone needs help. Any new task that she takes on, she masters in no time with enthusiasm, efficiency and a smile!

The Long Beach Police Department would not be the respected organization that it is without its many devoted volunteers. We recognize Marla Noel as an exemplary member of both our organization and our Community and we extend our sincere appreciation for her dedication!

Thank you, Marla!



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